

## ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### THEI 639 SP. STU. IN THEOLOGY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TRINITARIAN?

(3 Credits)

An AGTS Video Course Featuring:

Dr. Stanley J. Grenz

Benny C. Aker, Ph.D.

Independent Studies Program

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dr. Stanley J. Grenz has developed a post-modern theology of trinitarianism derived from years of thinking and reflection. His idea of a social trinity is not only the end product but the beginning and foundation of his whole theological methodology, embracing a whole system. This course seeks to understand this development of Grenz' notion of the trinity, to place it in its social, historical, and theological development, to see that and how he integrated his theology in this way, with the intent of applying it to 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking about personal and church life and ministry.

While his system looks a lot like it developed from anthropology, he denies that he intentionally made it so. Yet, it will be helpful to read some anthropology on human social relationships to understand more fully his system and its implications. By engaging it in this way, the student can understand more clearly what contemporary culture means by "community" and how it interfaces with other elements.

#### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course the student should be able to

1. Evaluate and integrate the significance of Grenz' theological center for the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
2. Trace Grenz' personal development of his theology;
3. Sketch the development of Trinitarian theology through the years leading up to the present time, noting the main people and their contributions to trinitarianism;
4. Discuss how Grenz' center works to integrate his whole system, especially soteriology, ecclesiology, prayer, creation, ministry, and trinitarianism;
5. Appreciate and apply his social emphasis in personal theology and ministry.
6. Engage in a more effective prayer life and worship experience.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Grenz, Stanley J. *Revisioning Evangelical Theology: A Fresh Agenda for the 21st Century*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Rediscovering the Triune God: The Trinity in Contemporary Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. *What Does It Mean to Be Trinitarians?* Ministry Resource DVD Set. Springfield, MO: Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, 2005. **(Supplied by the AGTS Continuing Education Office upon official course registration)**

## **METHODOLOGY**

Course objectives will be met through:

1. DVD Video Lectures
2. Asynchronous Online Discussion Forums
3. Completion of required assignments of reading and writing

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Completion of reading assignments.** Read/listen to the materials in the order as they are listed above. Approximately 1,700 pages must be read for this video course. This number includes the required textbooks. The remaining number of pages should be read in preparation for the research papers. Turn in a reading report/listening report with the title of materials read and the number of pages read. Please sign the report.
2. **Research Papers (3).** Write out in narrative form the following topics in paper form:
  - Explain what Dr. Grenz's theological center is. Define it; show how it integrates everything with it. Show how it develops and why. Dig into Grenz's background to note cultural influences on him. (10 pages)
  - Trace through history how trinitarianism develops, noting how Grenz fits into this scheme. (10 pages; largely from his *Rediscovering the Trinity in Contemporary Theology: The Triune God*)
  - Apply these results to your own theology, especially how the social trinity is or is not a good model for life and ministry in the 21st century. (10 pages)
3. **Online Discussion Forums.** Participate in the online asynchronous forums. Respond to the posted Forum Questions. Your response should completely address the question posed, using good grammar, spelling, punctuation, and organization. Each response should be at least 200 words in length. Also, respond to at least 1 (one) of your classmates' responses. Your responses should be an evaluation of the respondents' thoroughness, line of argument, reasoning, biblical support, and insights. These responses should be at least 100 words in length. It should not focus on spelling, grammar, or

descend to an argument about opinions. These exercises will comprise 15% of your final grade. Instructions on how to register for the forum will be emailed to you from the AGTS Continuing Education Office.

All assignments are to be typewritten, double-spaced, represent quality graduate level work, and follow the *Turabian* style manual, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

All assignments must include a title page that includes your name, address, phone and email, course number, title, and assignment title.

### **DUE DATES**

***Due date:*** All assignments are to be postmarked no later than 15 weeks after course registration **(All projects must be received by your AGTS Professor of Record by your due date)**

**NOTE:** A \$30.00 fee will be charged to the student's account for every grade change even if the instructor has approved an extension for completing the work. Any exception to the policy will be made by the registrar.

**Submit all assignments to:** AGTS Professor of Record (See Course Release Form)  
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Reading Assignments & Report	10%
Research Papers (3)	
Paper 1	25%
Paper 2	25%
Paper 3	25%
Online Discussion Forums	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **AGTS Grading Scale**

Publishable = A+  
100% - 94% = A  
93% - 90% = A-  
89% - 87% = B+  
86% - 84% = B  
83% - 80% = B-  
79% - 77% = C+  
76% - 74% = C  
73% - 70% = C-  
69% - 67% = D+  
66% - 64% = D  
63% - 60% = D-

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Grenz, Stanley J. *Isaac Backus--Puritan and Baptist: His Place in History, His Thought, and Their Implications for Modern Baptist Theology* NABPR Dissertation Series; No. 4. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1983.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Baptist Congregation: A Guide to Baptist Belief and Practice*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1985.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Prayer: The Cry for the Kingdom*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1988.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Reason for Hope: The Systematic Theology of Wolfhart Pannenberg*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Sexual Ethics: A Biblical Perspective* Issues of Christian Conscience. Dallas, TX: Word Pub., 1990.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Millennial Maze: Sorting out Evangelical Options*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Moral Quest: Foundations of Christian Ethics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Welcoming but Not Affirming: An Evangelical Response to Homosexuality*. 1st ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *What Christians Really Believe--and Why*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *The Social God and the Relational Self: A Trinitarian Theology of the Imago Dei*. 1st ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Nurturing the Soul, Informing the Mind: The Genesis of the Evangelical Scripture Principle." *Evangelicals Scripture: Tradition, Authority and Hermeneutics Edited Vincent Bacote, Laura C. Miguez and Dennis L. Okholm* Downers Grove: InterVarsity (2004).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Rediscovering the Triune God: The Trinity in Contemporary Theology*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Named God and the Question of Being: A Trinitarian Theo-Ontology*. 1st ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Prayer: The Cry for the Kingdom*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2005.

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Grenz, Stanley J., and Roger E. Olson. *20th Century Theology: God & the World in a Transitional Age*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

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Miller, Ed L., and Stanley J. Grenz. *Fortress Introduction to Contemporary Theologies*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1998.

Ramm, Bernard L., and Stanley J. Grenz. *Perspectives on Theology in the Contemporary World: Essays in Honor of Bernard Ramm*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1990.

Wozniak, Kenneth W. M., Stanley J. Grenz, and Vernon C. Grounds. *Christian Freedom: Essays in Honor of Vernon C. Grounds*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1986.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Benny C. Aker, Ph.D. and Monty Galloway, M.Div. March 2006.